

**JOINT MEETING OF THE MHDS COMMISSION & IOWA MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**October 21, 2021**  
**12:30 pm to 3:30 pm**  
**Zoom – DRAFT**

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**MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Betsy Akin  
Sarah Berndt  
Diane Brecht  
Rep. Dennis Bush  
Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott  
Janee Harvey  
Rep. Lindsay James  
Don Kass

June Klein-Bacon  
Timothy Perkins  
Maria Sorensen  
Jeff Sorensen  
Cory Turner  
Richard Whitaker  
Russell Wood  
Lorrie Young

**MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Teresa Daubitz  
Sen. Jeff Edler

Shari O'Bannon

**MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Teresa Bomhoff  
Rachel Cecil  
James Cornick  
Jim Donoghue  
Jen Gomez  
Kyra Hawley  
Theresa Henderson  
Vienna Hoang  
Michael Kaufmann  
Earl Kelly  
Todd Lange

Edward Murphy  
Hannah Olson  
Donna Richard-Langer  
Brad Richardson  
Jennifer Robbins  
Kristin Rooff  
Dennis Sharp  
Heather Thomas  
Michele Tilotta  
Kelly Wandishon

**MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Kenneth Briggs  
Sen. Nate Boulton  
Jacquie Easley  
Kris Graves  
Rep. Bob Kressig

Anna Killpack  
Katie McBurney  
Rep. Ann Meyer  
Dr. Shaad Swim

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Theresa Armstrong  
Kelly Bakewell  
Gerta Bardhoshi  
Liz Cox  
Erin Cubit  
Natalie Ginty  
Jamie Horbach

Bob Lincoln  
Brooke Lovelace  
Bradley Niebling  
Todd Noack  
Denise Rathman  
Jennifer Vermeer

**Materials Referenced:**

*Iowa Center for School Mental Health (ICSMH) PowerPoint Presentation  
2022 Medicaid Matters Coalition Policy Priorities - DRAFT*

**Welcome and Member Introductions**

Russell Wood called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. Wendy DePhillips led a roll call of MHDS Commission and Iowa Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council members and requested they introduce themselves and note their position on the MHDS Commission or Planning Council.

**MHDS Update**

Theresa Armstrong, Bureau Chief, Community Services and Planning, Division of Community Mental Health and Disability Services introduced herself and provided updates for the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Division of Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS).

**Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) Alignment**

There has been a lot of activity surrounding the HHS alignment, specifically with regards to the formation of change teams. These teams, which are made up of both DHS and the Iowa Department of Public Health, are targeting intersecting points in the following areas: behavioral health, disability and aging, family support, early childhood, food and nutrition, health promotion and maternal health. The teams are looking at activities within these areas and what the structure might look like as one agency. More information regarding the alignment as well as updates can be found at: <https://hhsalignment.iowa.gov/>. There was clarification that the focus areas of the change agent teams are not necessarily reflective of what the divisions will be under one agency. They are just categories that cross over between DHS and IDPH.

**Community Integration Town Hall Meetings**

DHS has organized town hall meetings regarding community integration. A couple of already occurred and there are three more meetings scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup>, October 27<sup>th</sup>, and November 1<sup>st</sup>. All the meetings are virtual and are being hosted by community partners. Marissa Eyanson, Administrator, Division of Community Mental Health and Disability Services and Liz Matney, Director, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise are having discussions with stakeholders and community partners about what the community integration plan looks like (activities, supports, etc.), and bringing in individuals to tell their stories. The meetings have been very interactive. A lot of what was referenced in the State Resource Center (SRC) Barriers Report has been the focus of conversation, as well as workforce, provider training, data, and how to work with reluctant decision-makers. Stakeholder feedback has been essential. Moving forward how do we take these strategies to move towards what is needed, not just in the facilities, but in the community as well, and how can MHDS and IME use additional SAMHSA dollars to increase training and support for providers, expand access and provide support to the workforce.

**COVID Recovery Iowa**

COVID Recovery Iowa is the mental health crisis program related to the pandemic and derecho and funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and administered by SAMHSA. Funding for this program was set to end on December 9, 2021, but DHS was notified by FEMA to file for a cost extension that will extend the program through early March 2022. The program which has been utilizing a strictly virtual platform, was given permission to start utilizing in-person opportunities this past summer, as appropriate. Program staff were able to attend and health and county fairs this summer and share information, resources, etc., as well as youth activities including summer camp and

school functions. Moving forward there will be a specific focus on workforce support and reaching out to employers to assist their employees.

#### Inpatient Psychiatric Bed Tracking Study Committee

The fourth and final meeting of the Inpatient Psychiatric Bed Tracking Study Committee is scheduled for October 22, 2021. Committee members need to produce a report for the legislature by the end of the year and will be reviewing this report at the final meeting. DHS and the Iowa Hospital Association (IHA) are co-chairs for this committee which includes Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), a private payor, law enforcement, MHDS Region, and a mental health advocate. The committee has been charged with looking at how to expand the acuity that hospitals are able to accept, payments for that level of acuity and what type of enhancements need to be made to the bed tracking system, including real-time tracking. Recommendations have not been finalized, but the committee is considering the following: DHS and IHA continue to analyze the options for specialized hospital care, specifically intensive psychiatric care, Medicaid to look at models of tiered reimbursement based on the level of acuity, DHS and IDPH to look at real-time tracking capabilities of their current data systems and if they can be integrated, aligned and/or expanded.

There was discussion regarding geriatric care and geriatric crisis and if these issues were part of the discussion of the Inpatient Psychiatric Bed Tracking Study Committee.

#### Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) Grants

SAMHSA has issued grant awards to Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) to support and restore services that were impacted by the pandemic. They are two-year projects and there were five awardees in Iowa with awards between \$1.5M and \$4.9M. The awards were issued to Black Hawk Grundy, Prairie Ridge, Vera French, Eyerly Ball and Seasons Center. The types of activities the CMHCs are looking to support and increase are expansion of school-based mental health services, increase evidence-based practices, more community support services and peer support, provide co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder services, collection of social determinants of health and providing follow-up based on needs, mobile outreach, increased mental health training, community drop-in centers, and upgrading electronic medical records to increase capacity for telehealth.

MHDS Commission and Iowa Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council members from the providers who received these grant awards provided more details specific to their location including: a new drop-in center with a care coordinator, a crisis counselor, and an activities coordinator, as well as capabilities to provide telehealth prescribing, mobile outreach to rural communities that will include a therapist, nurse, medication manager, and case coordinator/manager, expansion of same-day services to other outpatient location and Integrated Health Home (IHH) services to non-Medicaid clients, more outreach for homelessness, preparation for release from prison/jail, and suicide prevention and trauma informed care training for staff.

#### 988 Implementation Planning Grant

988 becomes the National Suicide Lifeline number on July 16, 2022. Looking at the challenges that Iowa faces and what specifically is needed to implement this change. The draft plan has been submitted to Vibrant, contractor with SAMHSA, and Iowa has received an extension on the planning grant so the stakeholder advisory group will continue to meet to discuss improvements to the implementation plan.

### Administrative Rules

Last month the MHDS Commission approved emergency rules for the MHDS Regional Incentive Fund related to SF619. Those rules went to the Administrative Rules Review Committee (ARRC) and became effective on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Applications for that funding will be due to DHS by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Update on Iowa Center for School Mental Health**

Dr. Gerta Bardhoshi, Director of Research and Training at the Iowa Center for School Mental Health presented an overview of the new resource center for children, their families, educators, and schools as well as the Iowa BEST Summit 2021 scheduled for November 2-3, 2021, at the Iowa Events Center. Dr. Bardhoshi indicated that they would be conducting some strategic planning for the ICSMH at the summit. It was noted that registration had closed, but more information regarding the Iowa Best Summit including focus areas and objectives can be found at: <https://education.uiowa.edu/iowa-best-summit>. Dr. Bardhoshi also spoke about the network of collaborators database that the center was implementing. The purpose of the databased is to gain information on who the experts are across the state, their areas of interest and how they envision themselves collaborating with the ICSMH. Dr. Bardhoshi noted that the idea was to engage as many experts and stakeholders as possible to help cover the wide range of needs across the state.

Brad Niebling, Bureau Chief, Iowa Department of Education spoke about the partnership between the University of Iowa and the Department of Education (DE) and the opportunity to converge the work of the DE on scale up work with regards to supporting social-emotional behavioral health in schools, and the University's vision for the Iowa Center for School Mental Health to accelerate the Center's development utilizing federal relief dollars.

There was discussion regarding the clinical aspect of the ICSMH and their partnerships within the University that can assist with coordinating care and diagnosis. There was discussion regarding how the Center will be engaging and supporting families and parents to assist in care of the child. There was discussion regarding whether the Center will be conducting brain injury screenings and/or referrals to work with neuropsychological examinations or screenings. There was discussion regarding a concept paper that the Children's Workgroup of the Iowa Mental Health Planning and Advisory Committee wrote and how it parallels to ICSMH. There was discussion regarding single point of entry for assessments.

### **Discussion of Legislative Recommendations for 2021**

The MHDS Commission and Iowa Mental Health Planning Council members discussed their respective legislative priorities. Teresa Bomhoff shared the draft policy priorities from the Medicaid Matters Coalition with the group and noted that there seems to be consistency across what the Planning Council has recommended versus what the MHDS Commission has recommended in their Annual Report.

There was discussion regarding the recommendation to increase the MHDS Region's cash reserve threshold from 5% to 20% as well as workforce issues which seem to be a limiting factor for all areas, and the recommendation regarding data infrastructure.

### **Public Comment**

Todd Noack, LifeConnections, provided comment regarding his excitement about the DHS issued Request for Proposal (RFP) for peer-operated organizations as well as the need to think about the norm for mental health services and that peer-run organizations should be a part of the norm. Todd encouraged both the MHDS Commission and the Mental Health Planning Council to consider having a

presentation from the Iowa Workforce Collaborative (peer support training, family peer support training, peer recovery training.) LifeConnections is a subcontractor of the Iowa Workforce Collaborative and has been doing several presentations.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy DePhillips.

DRAFT